

Message Text

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64

ACTION PA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06 COME-00 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /077 W

----- 088538

R 261630Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1546

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMMBASSY STOCKHOLM 679

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BCOM, PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BIE, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPO 74

REF: PARIS 27282

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED GOI REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION PARTICIPATION EXPO 74 IN VIEW FRENCH DECISION. RESPONSE WAS LUKEWARM COMMITMENT TO RECONSIDER, WITH OUTCOME DEPENDENT ON NATURE FRENCH PARTICIPATION AND POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPORT FROM FIAT.
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2. MIN ECON AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS ELY INFORMED ECON VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL RICCIULLI, MFA, THAT FRENCH HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPO 74, AND ASKED GOI TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE. RICCIULLI EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER FRENCH DECISION, INDICATED GOI WOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK, BUT NOTED THAT BUDGET RESTRAINTS WOULD PROBABLY BE DECISIVE. HE RECALLED THAT GOI HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE TO PUSH FOR AN EC EXPOSITION, BUT AT A TIME WHEN FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

MUCK LESS SEVERE.

3. COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED UP WITH CALL ON MAZZARINI, COUNSELOR IN ECON DG OF MFA AND ACTION OFFICER FOR EXPO 74, EXPRESSING HOPE FOR FAVORABLE ITALIAN RECONSIDERATION. MAZZARINI STATED THAT ALTHOUGH FRENCH DECISION PUT NEW LIGHT ON MATTER, GOI BUDGET RESTRAINTS AND GOI AUSTERITY PROGRAM COULD MITIGATE AGAINST FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION. NONETHELESS, MAZZARINI SAID HE WOULD CONTACT FRENCH THROUGH GOI EMBASSY IN PARIS (WE PASSED ALONG USBSTANCE OF PARIS 27644) TO GET DETAILS ON CONDITIONS OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION. HE ADDED IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT IF WE COULD OBTAIN FIAT SUPPORT (OR AT LEAST THEIR AGREEMENT NOT TO RAISE OBSTACLES) IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE COMPETITIVE FIAT-SPONSORED TURIN ENVIRONMENT SHOW IN EARLY MAY 1974 ON ENVIRONMENT, HE WOULD BE IN STRONGER POSITION IN POSSIBLE FUTURE INTERMINISTERIAL MEETINGS ON SUBJECT. EMBOFFS AGREED TO AGAIN APPROACH FIAT MANAGMENT, BEGINNING WITH MANAGER IN ROME.

4. THOUGH WE NOT REALLY HOPEFUL OF OUTCOME, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS WITH GOI AND FIAT AND INFORM DEPARTMENT OF RESULTS SOONEST. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME11762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973109/aaaaaghn.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 27282
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPO 74
TAGS: BGEN, PFOR, SENV, SCUL, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005